

art that the cited art did not even read on the claim language even before the amendments were made. The amendments were made only to place the claims in what Applicant considered to be better form, not to distinguish over the cited art.

Therefore, Applicant's amendments did not necessitate the new grounds of rejection, so the present Office action should not have been made final. Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the present Office Action be withdrawn. Furthermore, if the Examiner intends to again reject the claims based on new grounds not stated in the present Office Action, the next Office Action (if any) must not be made final.

The Cited Art

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-19, 21-25 and 27-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on U.S. patent no. 5,841,849 of Macor ("Macor"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Macor comes no closer to disclosing Applicant's claimed invention than the previously cited art did.

Claim 1 recites:

1. (Previously presented) A method of operating a hand-held mobile device, the method comprising:
displaying a softkey indicator on a display of the hand-held mobile device, the softkey indicator indicating a corresponding softkey action;
displaying an input field on the display while displaying the softkey indicator, the input field **for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device**;
detecting activation of the input field; and
in response to activation of the input field, automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field **and automatically changing the softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action.**
(Emphasis added).

Macor does not disclose or suggest such a method. In particular, Macor does not disclose or suggest, in response to activation of an input field for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the handheld mobile device, automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field and automatically changing a softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action.

Macor discloses a user interface for a personal telecommunication device, such as a mobile phone. The Examiner cites Macor at col. 3, lines 24-31; col. 4 lines 32 to col. 5 line 5; and Figs. 4-7. However, the above-mentioned claim features are not suggested either there or elsewhere in Macor.

In Macor, to make a phone call the user first selects the "CALL" virtual button 26 (Fig. 1) to put the phone into the mode in which a telephone number can be entered (col. 4, lines 32-45). At this point, in contrast with claim 1, no softkey indicator has been changed to indicate a selected softkey action in response to activation of an input field. In fact, the entire display in Fig. 1 is replaced with the display shown in Fig. 4 in response to selection of the "CALL" button. So at this point in Macor's process, the limitations of claim 1 clearly have not been satisfied.

Next, the user "types" a telephone number into the display field 36 (Fig. 4) by using the trackball 22 to control the location indicator 25 on display 8 (col. 4, lines 47-65). At this point, there is still no change to any softkey indicator, in contrast with claim 1, so the limitations of claim 1 still are not satisfied by Macor's process.

Finally, to initiate the call after typing in the telephone number, the user then must select the dial function key 40 (Fig. 4), which causes the telephone number to be

dialed and also causes the entered telephone number to be displayed below display field 42 (col. 4 line 65 to col. 5, line 5). At this point, there still has been no change to any softkey indicator in response to activation of an input field, in contrast with claim 1. In fact, there is only one real input field in Fig. 4 of Macor, which is display field 36, and there is no softkey indicator in Macor which changes in response to activating it. Note that elements 42 ("DIAL") and 46 ("LAST NUMBER DIALED") in Fig. 4 are not softkey indicators, nor are they input fields; they are merely display fields.

Similarly, the remaining Figures and description in Macor also fail to disclose or suggest the claim features discussed above. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion in Macor of a method which includes, in response to activation of an input field for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device, automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field and automatically changing a softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action. Therefore, claim 1 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over the cited art.

Each of the other independent claims also recites a feature similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over the cited art for similar reasons, along with its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent